# What Is the Harrisburg Chamber of Commerce?

## WHAT IS THE HARRISBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE?

THE Chamber of Commerce is the coordinated spirit of the community with particular reference to its material well-being; it is the practical application of team-work set to the task of community development; it is the organization of 1,000 good citizens with common purposes and widely divergent views as to the methods of treatment, but subservient to the will of the majority.

¶ It is the business of the Chamber of Commerce to initiate movements for the city's advancement, to develop latent resources, to stimulate struggling enterprises, and to harmonize warring elements. Also it is the province of such an organization to investigate proposed improvements and put them to the test of common sense, and, if they are found to be impracticable, to discourage their propagation. Sometimes it happens that a Chamber of Commerce is as valuable to the community because of the things it prevents as it is by reason of the projects it fosters.

¶ Time was when a Chamber of Commerce meant merely an association of business men interested exclusively in those ac-

tivities designed to bring immediate profitable return to its members. Happily this restricted conception of commercial organizations has gone to the discard. Nowadays the Chamber of Commerce has as its primary purpose the development of the entire community with no thought for the immediate advantage of any member or any group of members. The organization now realizes that the individual members are best served when those activities are set in motion that make for the prosperity of all the people residing in that community.

¶ The Chamber of Commerce has no power beyond moral suasion, it has no capital for investment, nor has it authority to compel others to invest. Its sole power for good rests in its ability to smooth the way for investment and development; to do those things that the individual has neither the inclination nor the power to do. The individual lacks inclination for, or soon tires of doing, that which brings no greater gain to him than to others; and he lacks power to invoke a spirit of civic pride and confidence that must prevail as a preliminary and basic condition for the accomplishment of benefits of a public or semi-public nature, on lines broad enough to inspire confidence



and win the support of individuals who are willing to contribute some time and some money to the cause of the general welfare.

## HOW DOES THE CHAMBER OPERATE?

¶ The Chamber of Commerce is dependent upon the efforts of its members for results, and the members are the motive power of the organization. Interested members mean accomplishments, for every project is entrusted to those who are interested in seeing them through.

¶ Committees are assigned the tasks laid out in the program of work, and the selection of the committees is made with a view of entrusting important work to qualified committee members. To show an interest in a community need and a knowledge of how to fill it is a guide to the officers in the selection of properly qualified committee members.

¶ The government of the Chamber is vested in a board of fifteen directors, nominated by a special nominating committee, and elected by the membership. Any ten members may nominate a ticket for the directorships by posting the names of their nominees on the bulletin board in the Chamber offices one week prior to the

election. No director may immediately succeed himself.

¶ A president, two vice-presidents, and treasurer are elected from the directors at their organization meeting following the annual election. The directors are empowered to select the secretary and fix his salary.

¶ The administration of the affairs of the Chamber is in charge of a paid secretary and staff, consisting of assistant secretary, heads of the various bureaus (housing, community service, etc.), office manager and clerical and stenographic force.

¶ The officers are responsible at all times to the membership, and any member may bring any matter to the attention of the directors whenever he sees fit. Every member of the Chamber of Commerce has an equal voice in its government and an equal share in the credit for its accomplishments.

## HOW IS THE CHAMBER MAINTAINED?

¶ Each member pays an annual fee of $25. This is his tangible contribution toward the welfare of the city. At the end of the year, at the annual meeting, the officers and directors submit a written report of the disposition of all funds. These fees pay for all the work accomplished



by the Chamber of Commerce, as the organization solicits no funds for the handling of its projects.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP?

¶ Every good citizen is eligible for membership. Representing no special interest, recognizing no sect or creed, dominated by no selfish influence, with no limitation upon its membership except that of good citizenship, with its funds and equipment devoted to the public welfare, the Harrisburg Chamber of Commerce is the one organization which brings all types of citizens together for advancement of the community as a whole.

¶ Membership is open to rich man, poor man, merchant, doctor, workman, and every one else who has the best interests of Harrisburg at heart. Residents of Steelton, Carlisle, Chambersburg, Philadelphia, Lancaster, New York, Washington, Boston and many other towns and cities, belong to the Harrisburg Chamber of Commerce. Through business relations or former residence here they have acquired an interest in Harrisburg, and realize that the Chamber of Commerce is the best means through which they can express that interest in a way which will be of direct benefit to the city as a whole.